

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method of providing secondary functions from a menu
2 item graphical control, said method comprising:
3 including a plurality of graphical components with the
4 menu item graphical control, each of the
5 graphical components corresponding to a different
6 programmed function;
7 displaying the menu item graphical control with the
8 included graphical components;
9 receiving a selection from a user corresponding to one
10 of the graphical components; and
11 invoking the programmed function corresponding the
12 selected graphical component.
- 1 2. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2 displaying a sub-menu of selectable programmed
3 functions in response to the user selecting a
4 sub-menu graphical component.
- 1 3. The method as described in claim 1 wherein at least
2 one of the graphical components includes a graphical
3 icon that is displayed on the menu item graphical
4 control.
- 1 4. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2 configuring the plurality of programmed functions
3 using a configuration tool;
4 modifying the menu item graphical control to include
5 the graphical components corresponding to the
6 configured programmed functions; and
7 saving the configured plurality of programmed
8 functions and the modified menu item graphical
9 control.

1 5. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2 configuring one or more secondary functions to include
3 in a sub-menu;
4 modifying the menu item graphical control to include a
5 sub-menu graphical component corresponding to the
6 sub-menu;
7 saving the secondary functions and the modified menu
8 item.

1 6. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2 receiving a default selection corresponding to a
3 default area of the menu item graphical control;
4 and
5 invoking a default function in response to the default
6 selection.

1 7. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the
2 programmed functions include one or more application
3 programs.

1 8. The method as described in claim 1 wherein the
2 programmed functions include one or more application
3 functions corresponding to an application program and
4 wherein the menu item graphical control corresponds to
5 the application program.

1 9. An information handling system comprising:
2 one or more processors;
3 a memory accessible by the processors;
4 a nonvolatile storage area accessible by the
5 processors;
6 a display screen accessible by the processors;

an input device capable of a receiving input from a user corresponding to data displayed on the display screen; and

a secondary function menu item tool to include secondary functions with a menu item graphical control, the secondary function menu item tool including:

display logic for displaying a plurality of graphical components with the menu item graphical control on the display device, each of the graphical components corresponding to a different programmed function;

menu item logic for displaying the menu item graphical control with the included graphical components;

input processing logic for receiving a selection from a user corresponding to one of the graphical components; and

task scheduling logic for invoking the programmed function corresponding the selected graphical component.

10. The information handling system as described in claim 9 further comprising:

display logic for displaying a sub-menu of selectable programmed functions in response to the user selecting a sub-menu graphical component.

11. The information handling system as described in claim 9 wherein at least one of the graphical components

3 includes a graphical icon that is displayed on the
4 menu item graphical control.

1 12. The information handling system as described in claim
2 9 further comprising:
3 configuration logic for configuring the plurality of
4 programmed functions using a configuration tool;
5 graphic modification logic for modifying the menu item
6 graphical control to include the graphical
7 components corresponding to the configured
8 programmed functions; and
9 storage handling logic for saving the configured
10 plurality of programmed functions and the
11 modified menu item graphical control to the
12 nonvolatile storage area.

1 13. A computer program product stored on a computer
2 operable medium for providing secondary functions from
3 a menu item graphical control, said computer program
4 product comprising:
5 means for including a plurality of graphical
6 components with the menu item graphical control,
7 each of the graphical components corresponding to
8 a different programmed function;
9 means for displaying the menu item graphical control
10 with the included graphical components;
11 means for receiving a selection from a user
12 corresponding to one of the graphical components;
13 and
14 means for invoking the programmed function
15 corresponding the selected graphical component.

1 14. The computer program product as described in claim 13
2 further comprising:
3 means for displaying a sub-menu of selectable
4 programmed functions in response to the user
5 selecting a sub-menu graphical component.

1 15. The computer program product as described in claim 13
2 wherein at least one of the graphical components
3 includes a graphical icon that is displayed on the
4 menu item graphical control.

1 16. The computer program product as described in claim 13
2 further comprising:
3 means for configuring the plurality of programmed
4 functions using a configuration tool;
5 means for modifying the menu item graphical control to
6 include the graphical components corresponding to
7 the configured programmed functions; and
8 means for saving the configured plurality of
9 programmed functions and the modified menu item
10 graphical control.

1 17. The computer program product as described in claim 13
2 further comprising:
3 means for configuring a plurality of secondary
4 functions to include in a sub-menu;
5 means for modifying the menu item graphical control to
6 include a sub-menu graphical component
7 corresponding to the sub-menu;
8 means for saving the plurality of secondary functions
9 and the modified menu item.

1 18. The computer program product as described in claim 13
2 further comprising:
3 means for receiving a default selection corresponding
4 to a default area of the menu item graphical
5 control; and
6 means for invoking a default function in response to
7 the default selection.

1 19. The computer program product as described in claim 13
2 wherein the programmed functions include one or more
3 application programs.

1 20. The computer program product as described in claim 13
2 wherein the programmed functions include one or more
3 application functions corresponding to an application
4 program and wherein the menu item graphical control
5 corresponds to the application program

1 21. A method of providing secondary functions from a menu
2 item graphical control, said method comprising:
3 configuring one or more secondary functions to include
4 in a sub-menu;
5 modifying the menu item graphical control to include a
6 sub-menu graphical component corresponding to the
7 sub-menu, wherein the menu item graphical control
8 further includes one or more graphical components
9 corresponding to one or more programmed
10 functions; and
11 displaying the sub-menu in response to a user
12 selecting the sub-menu graphical component.

1 22. A method of providing secondary functions from a menu
2 item graphical control, said method comprising:

3 configuring a plurality of programmed functions using
4 a configuration tool;
5 identifying a plurality of graphical components for
6 each of the programmed functions;
7 modifying the menu item graphical control to include
8 the graphical components corresponding to the
9 configured programmed functions;
10 displaying the menu item graphical control with the
11 included graphical components;
12 receiving a selection from a user corresponding to one
13 of the graphical components; and
14 invoking the programmed function corresponding the
15 selected graphical component.

1 23. An information handling system comprising:
2 one or more processors;
3 a memory accessible by the processors;
4 a nonvolatile storage area accessible by the
5 processors;
6 a display screen accessible by the processors;
7 an input device capable of a receiving input from a
8 user corresponding to data displayed on the
9 display screen; and
10 a secondary function menu item tool to include
11 secondary functions with a menu item graphical
12 control, the secondary function menu item tool
13 including:
14 means for configuring one or more secondary
15 functions to include in a sub-menu;
16 means for modifying the menu item graphical
17 control to include a sub-menu graphical
18 component corresponding to the sub-menu,

19 wherein the menu item graphical control
20 further includes one or more graphical
21 components corresponding to one or more
22 programmed functions; and
23 means for displaying the sub-menu in response to
24 a user selecting the sub-menu graphical
25 component.

1 24. An information handling system comprising:
2 one or more processors;
3 a memory accessible by the processors;
4 a nonvolatile storage area accessible by the
5 processors;
6 a display screen accessible by the processors;
7 an input device capable of receiving input from a
8 user corresponding to data displayed on the
9 display screen; and
10 a secondary function menu item tool to include
11 secondary functions with a menu item graphical
12 control, the secondary function menu item tool
13 including:
14 means for configuring a plurality of programmed
15 functions using a configuration tool;
16 means for identifying a plurality of graphical
17 components for each of the programmed
18 functions;
19 means for modifying the menu item graphical
20 control to include the graphical components
21 corresponding to the configured programmed
22 functions;

23 means for displaying the menu item graphical
24 control with the included graphical
25 components;
26 means for receiving a selection from a user
27 corresponding to one of the graphical
28 components; and
29 means for invoking the programmed function
30 corresponding the selected graphical
31 component.

1 25. A computer program product stored on a computer
2 operable medium for providing secondary functions from
3 a menu item graphical control, said computer program
4 product comprising:
5 means for configuring one or more secondary functions
6 to include in a sub-menu;
7 means for modifying the menu item graphical control to
8 include a sub-menu graphical component
9 corresponding to the sub-menu, wherein the menu
10 item graphical control further includes one or
11 more graphical components corresponding to one or
12 more programmed functions; and
13 means for displaying the sub-menu in response to a
14 user selecting the sub-menu graphical component.

1 26. A computer program product stored on a computer
2 operable medium for providing secondary functions from
3 a menu item graphical control, said computer program
4 product comprising:
5 means for configuring a plurality of programmed
6 functions using a configuration tool;

7 means for identifying a plurality of graphical
8 components for each of the programmed functions;
9 means for modifying the menu item graphical control to
10 include the graphical components corresponding to
11 the configured programmed functions;
12 means for displaying the menu item graphical control
13 with the included graphical components;
14 means for receiving a selection from a user
15 corresponding to one of the graphical components;
16 and
17 means for invoking the programmed function
18 corresponding the selected graphical component.